

REMARKS

This Amendment After Final is made in response to the final Office Action dated October 9, 2007. Claims 1-8 and 10-20 were pending in this case. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the recitations of claim 2. Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 19 has been canceled without prejudice. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the remarks below.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 20 has been allowed and that claims 2 and 4-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the recitations of claim 2. Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of claim 1.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 10, 13-14 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,925,061 to Ogi et al. (the "Ogi patent"). Claims 1, 7, 8, 11, 13-14 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,264,688 to Herklotz (the "Herklotz patent"). Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Ogi patent in view of U.S. Patent No 6,245,101 to Drasler et al. (the "Drasler patent"). Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Ogi patent.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the Ogi and Herklotz patents. However, in order to expedite allowance of this application, Applicants have amended claim 1, as indicated above, to include the recitations of claim 2. Accordingly, claims 3, 7, 8 and 10-18 now depend from an allowable claim. Claim 19

has been canceled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these previously pending and similar claims in a related application to be filed at a later date. In view of these amendments, it is believed that claims 1, 3, 7, 8 and 10-18 are now in a condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully urged that all of the present claims of the application are patentable and in a condition for allowance. The undersigned attorney can be reached at (310) 824-5555 to facilitate prosecution of this application, if necessary.

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any fees payable in connection with this response to Deposit Account No. 06-2425.

Respectfully submitted,
FULWIDER PATTON LLP

By: /THOMAS H. MAJCHER/
Thomas H. Majcher
Registration No. 31,119

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